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Around the World

U.S. Agents Once Held Barbie Son, Relative Says

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, July 31 — American agents who sent Klaus Barbie on intelligence missions held his baby son as a "hostage" to insure that Mr. Barbie would return, according to an interview with Mr. Barbie's daughter-in-law published today.

Mr. Barbie, who was extradited to France from Bolivia in February, is awaiting trial for murders and deportations he is accused of having ordered when he was chief of the Gestapo in Lyons between 1942 and 1944.

In the interview published by Le Journal du Dimanche, Mr. Barbie's daughter in law, Françoise Crozier de Alt-

mann, who lives in Bolivia, was asked specifically about Mr. Barbie's "contacts with the C.I.A."

"They date to the end of the war," she said. "In 1946, the American sequestered his baby Klaus-Georg, who became my husband. They wanted to make sure that Barbie would in fact return from the missions that they assigned to him. The baby was the hostage." Mrs. Altmann's husband died in a plane crash in May 1980.